



California

--Volume 7, Number 4 - July 1992

Libertarian News

FLICKINGER WINS IN MORENO VALLEY!

COUNCILWOMAN-ELECT WINS LANDSLIDE VICTORY

On June 2 Libertarian **Bonnie Flickinger** won a special election for the 4th District seat on the Moreno Valley City Council. Her vote total of 1,182 (40.2%) exceeded that of her nearest two competitors combined. A plurality was all that was needed to win in the non-partisan race. The election was to complete the term (expiring in November 1994) of a deceased council member. Moreno Valley is a rapidly-growing Riverside County suburb of 125,000 people.

Ms. Flickinger, a legal secretary, is currently treasurer of the Libertarian Party of California, a position she is leaving in order to advance libertarian principles from within local government. She was the LP candidate for Congress in Riverside County in 1988 and 1990. **Aaron Starr** served as campaign consultant for the successful council race, building on his 1990 experience as campaign manager for **Sandi Webb**, a Libertarian who won a seat on the Simi Valley City Council.

Bonnie and her group of dedicated volunteers ran a strong grass roots campaign that overwhelmed the scare tactics and dirty tricks of her opponents. The candidate single-handedly walked to over 1200 houses in the district, and stressed her goal of repealing a much-hated local utilities tax.

Moreno Valley has the reputation of having a very corrupt city government, and the establishment was not pleased at the prospect of a Flickinger victory. During the campaign, her signs were stolen, and once a hole was even punched in her van. One of her challengers (who spent the most money on the race and was first seen as the front-runner) threatened to retaliate against businesses that refused to donate to him or instead donated to Bonnie.

Three days before the election, an anonymous (but slick-looking)



Bonnie Flickinger becomes first Libertarian ever elected in Moreno Valley, Riverside County.

flyer was distributed in the district, attacking Bonnie as a "libertine" type Libertarian who wanted to make Moreno Valley a "testing ground for the Libertarian experiment," starting with legalizing drugs. Also, workers at one of the polling places were urging people not to vote for Bonnie.

Clearly the hit piece didn't work -- and victory was the sweetest revenge.

PRIMARY ELECTION '92: WIN SOME, LOSE SOME

The best prizes of Election Night were the victories of **Bonnie Flickinger** and **Tom Tryon**. Other Libertarians gave it their best shot, but still fell short in several non-partisan races.

In San Diego, **Dick Rider** ran a strong race for an open seat on the Board of Supervisors based on his fame in successfully fighting an increase in the sales there, saving taxpayers more than \$1 billion. He won 19%, but ran third, failing to make the runoff. **Gary Kirkland** was defeated for the Atascadero City Council in San Luis Obispo County, and **Kennita Watson** fell short in the race for East Palo Alto Sanitation District Board in San Mateo County. In

cont. on next page -- See "Primary"

TRYON RE-ELECTED IN CALAVERAS

Libertarian **Tom Tryon** was re-elected June 2 to a third four-year term on the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors. The vote was 53% to 47% for Dennis Mills, a perennial candidate. Though Tryon is well-known and popular in this rural county of 40,000 residents, his libertarian views are easy marks for opponents using simplistic arguments.

Mills ran a negative campaign, focusing on Tryon's positions on civil liberties, drugs, flag burning, abortion and land use. Tryon stressed positive themes -- and also managed to outspend his opponent 5-1. We believe Tom is now the senior Libertarian elected official in California. As a supervisor, he holds the highest position in the pecking order of any Libertarian in the country.



"Primary" -- cont. from page 1

Los Angeles County, **Howard Johnson** won 102,652 votes in a county-wide race for District Attorney. Incumbent D.A. Ira Reiner, a grandstander despised by Libertarians, was forced into a runoff with Gil Garcetti, his former assistant.

In a special election in the San Fernando Valley's 20th State Senate district, Democrat David Roberti eked out a 42% victory. Alternative party candidates took 19%, including 7% for Libertarian **John Vernon**. Unfortunately, Roberti, one of Sacramento's sleaziest statist, will continue in office until December 1994. Under Proposition 140's term limits, however, he won't be coming back after that!

Two Libertarian Party primaries were held as well. In the 24th State Assembly District (Santa Clara County), **James Ludemann** defeated **David Schnepfer** 57%-43%. In the 53rd State Assembly District (Los Angeles County), **William Gaillard** bested **Sal Princiotta** 55%-45%. Our final lineup for November now consists of an impressive 98 candidates statewide. The best major party result was the Democratic primary in the 55th State Assembly District. A dark-horse candidate, Juanita McDonald, defeated two incumbents, Dave Elder and Richard Floyd. Floyd, of course, is notorious for his dogged sponsorship of motorcycle helmet laws.

On the ballot proposition front, both bond measures, Props 152 and 153, passed despite Libertarian opposition. Libertarians had written the ballot pamphlet argument against Prop 153, the Higher Education Facilities Bond Act (see related story). In Los Angeles County, Proposition A, a \$100 million bond to install fire sprinklers in old county buildings, won by just a 53%-47% margin, far short of the two-thirds requirement. Libertarians may take partial credit for the defeat, since they wrote the ballot argument against this one as well.

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LIBERTARIANS CRY "FOUL!" ON PROP 153 VICTORY

Proposition 153 was narrowly approved by California voters June 2 by a 51% to 49% margin, despite vigorous support and media advertising by the education establishment. The measure is a \$900 million bond act for higher education facilities. *CL News* editor **Ted Brown** wrote the ballot argument against it.

The State Legislature placed the measure on the ballot and decreed that the Official Sample Ballot would include the words: "These construction projects will create jobs, ensure access to higher education for California's students, and enable public colleges and universities to prepare a well-trained and competitive workforce to strengthen the state's economy." These claims are questionable at best, but opponents were not permitted to rebut them in this part of the ballot containing the brief, purportedly neutral, description of the measure. Since some voters read only this short summary, and not the more lengthy arguments in the separate ballot pamphlet, they may have been more likely to support this description with its prejudicial wording than they would have a fairly worded description.

Thus, Libertarians are looking into filing suit to prevent Proposition 153 from going into effect. A logical outcome would be to place it on the November ballot without a slanted description, so that voters can decide it on its objective merits.

Normally, the State Attorney General's office provides the title summaries for measures like Proposition 153 that appear on the ballot. Elections Code section 3531 requires that "the Attorney General shall give a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the measure in such language that the ballot title shall not be an argument likely to create prejudice either for or against a measure." SB 119, which placed Prop 153 on the ballot, bypassed this requirement and specifically ordered the wording mentioned above be printed "notwithstanding any other provision of law."

Since a similar bond measure for university buildings failed in November 1990, the legislators were obviously running scared and decided to pull out all the stops to win passage of Proposition 153. In doing so, they have made a mockery of the democratic process.

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by Bob Thaves



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Rest In Peace

Two longtime Libertarians died in May: **Karen Huffman** and **Roy Childs**. Karen was a dedicated activist from San Jose. She was manager of the LP office in Santa Clara County in the early '80s, proprietor of The Freedom Works, a member of the LPC state executive committee, and a winner of the Libertarian Party of California's prestigious Karl J. Bray Memorial Award for activism. Karen died in Carson City, NV on May 25 of Lou Gehrig's disease. She will be sadly missed by her friends and family.

Roy Childs, libertarian philosopher and writer, died May 22 at age 43. He was editor of *Libertarian Review* magazine in the late '70s and early '80s and an LP candidate for Congress in San Francisco in 1980. Most recently he had written countless book reviews for the Laissez Faire Books catalog. He will be sadly missed by libertarians everywhere.

LIBERTARIAN NOTES

* Now that she has been elected to the Moreno Valley City Council, **Bonnie Flickinger** has resigned as treasurer of the Libertarian Party of California. The new treasurer will be formally elected at the state executive committee meeting August 8 in Long Beach. In the meantime, **Jerry Douglas** will assume Bonnie's duties as acting treasurer pending his actual selection for the position. Jerry can be contacted at 23150 Avenue San Luis #230, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, phone (818) 225-1776.

* For those trying to reach Bonnie Flickinger, her telephone number is now (714) 924-9104 and her FAX number is (714) 242-9789.

* California Libertarians interested in revising the party's bylaws and convention rules should send their ideas to **Jerry Collette**, 15303 Ventura Blvd., 9th floor, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Contact Jerry at (818) 909-9445 to be on the mailing list for other peoples' suggestions.

DOUGLAS AVOIDS FIJA CONTEMPT CHARGE

Libertarian **Jerry Douglas** faced contempt of court charges June 18 from a Los Angeles County Municipal Court judge who didn't appreciate Douglas' instructing fellow jurors about the fully informed jury amendment (FIJA).

Douglas, acting treasurer of the Libertarian Party of California and a two-term elected member of the Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District Board, was serving as foreman of a jury deciding three misdemeanor counts. Guilty verdicts were quickly rendered on two minor counts, but the jury deadlocked on the third. Jurors believed the law didn't apply in this case, but thought they must follow the judge's instruction as to the law -- which would have meant a guilty verdict.

Douglas pointed out that juries have the right to judge the law as well as the facts of the case, and that if they believe the law is either wrong or doesn't apply, they can acquit the defendant. The other jurors didn't believe him, and one told the judge (a woman), who asked Douglas if he intended to follow the law as she gave it to

SACRAMENTO -- A FUNNY PLACE TO BE A LIBERTARIAN

Sacramento politicians certainly aren't very funny -- especially when they're raising taxes and imposing new government regulations. Sacramento Libertarians, however, believe that using humor will help build party membership.

The Sacramento/Yolo LP has 176 dues-paying members, but there are over 2,000 registered Libertarians in the region. In order to market the party to registrants, **Dave McCann** and **Tom Dahlberg** have composed "Dave's Top Ten Reasons to Join the Sacramento Area Libertarian Party," a takeoff of David Letterman's Top Ten lists. It was mailed to 1,000 registrants. Results aren't in yet, but if it works, other counties may want to try this ticklish tactic.

DAVE'S TOP TEN

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him. When he said "No," she dismissed him from the jury and ordered him to appear June 18 to face contempt of court charges.

Libertarians demonstrated at the Van Nuys Courthouse to show their support for Jerry Douglas and fully informed juries. The demonstrators then went inside to listen to the proceedings. It was obvious that the judge wanted to avoid a confrontation and certainly didn't want any publicity on this issue. After requesting and receiving Douglas' apology (his acquiescence wasn't required), the judge closed the matter. We understand that some other FIJA activists haven't fared as well in other states.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

California Libertarian News is the official newsletter of the Libertarian Party of California. Opinions and articles contained within do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated. Please send articles, local news, photos, letters, and advertising copy to the editor: **Ted Brown**, 125 N. Allen Ave. #107, Pasadena, CA 91106 (818) 568-8404

The Perot Candidacy

Editor:

Libertarians are facing a major disappointment, and I fear that too many will react badly to what may in the long run be a major opportunity. I refer of course to H. Ross Perot.

I want to warn Libertarians against relieving their frustration and anger by viciously attacking Perot. This will only alienate Perot's supporters, who otherwise might be very receptive to our ideas.

Just as in 1980, our candidate is being upstaged by an independent who has been made the beneficiary of a media feeding frenzy. In both cases we hoped it would be us -- that the general public would gag on the Republican and Democratic candidates and turn to the Libertarian Party.

Alas, it is not to be. We'll still work our butts off, but Andre Marrou is going to come in a distant fourth.

Nor is Perot anything close to being a libertarian. He's a mixed bag, and libertarians can (and will) spend long hours debating among themselves whether he's marginally better or worse than Bush or Clinton.

But what he represents (and is providing the focus for) is an electorate that is openly revolting against politics-as-usual, as represented by the two major parties. We may think the public has chosen the wrong man, but we should nonetheless revel in this revolt.

The immediate effect of Perot's candidacy will be an upsurge for votes for Libertarians in all our other races, as well as a jump in registration. The long term effect will be to shatter the current two-party monopoly and end the myth that it's hopeless to challenge the Republicans and Democrats.

I'm reasonably confident that this country can survive a Perot candidacy or presidency, just as it has survived others. The LP will still be around, even stronger, after he's gone.

So please, let's just stick to the issues, avoid foaming at the mouth, and at least enjoy the spectacle of Bush and Clinton and all their minions squirming in terror.

Daniel Wiener
Simi Valley, CA

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Death Penalty Comments

Editor:

I wish to comment on Ted Brown's column on the death penalty (June *CL News*). This is an issue with which I have trouble myself. I would like to agree that Libertarians believe the state shouldn't have powers that individuals lack, but when it comes to criminal justice, this is simply impossible.

Even restitution directed solely at compensating the victim is only possible with the force of the state. If there is to be any system for solving disputes between victims and their oppressors, be they thief, rapist or murderer, that system must possess authority to enforce its decisions. Otherwise it is useless and the individual would be better off without it.

Criminal justice is one of the few areas where the state has a legitimate purpose. The prime function of government is to protect the citizenry from external and internal oppression, by stopping others from taking away your rights by force.

Another argument in the article is the "everybody else does it" (in other countries) argument. This is not limited to the death penalty, but has been used in other countries as a basis for vast increases in the gasoline tax, institution of a value added tax, national health insurance, gun control, and a host of other laws, the lack of which quite frankly makes this country better than others.

While most western democracies have no death penalty, they also have no Bill of Rights and the most restrictive taxation and regulatory structures on earth. I don't care what the rest of the world does. The death penalty is a moral issue that can only be decided on an individual basis and only by the jury, based on the circumstances involved. I don't have the answer; unlike Mr. Brown, however, I can't reject the death penalty in all cases and must definitely support it in some.

David Wire
Santa Monica, CA

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GUEST OPINION

Contested Primaries Offer Publicity Bonanza

by Fred Heiser

I consider it to be a source of pride that the LP has candidates in most of the partisan races in California. Certainly in this regard we are doing much better than any other alternative party and are close to par with the two "biggies." Running for office is an exhausting and time-consuming proposition, and I'm trying to be more than just a paper candidate.

Now I am about to climb out on a limb -- and probably saw that limb off behind me -- but here goes.

I think it would in our party's best interests to have two or more Libertarians running for each partisan office for which there is enough support (and willing candidates) to sustain the petition drives. Certainly we should never discourage it. I believe that many benefits would accrue from this with minimal risk.

This would cause potential candidates to dig deeper into the ranks of registered LP voters for support, or even to register more Libertarians just to make the minimum for their petition drives. This means more personal contact between candidates and the roots of the party. The work is a little harder, but the gain is greater.

More public exposure of the libertarian philosophy to the general public would occur. Here is a case in point: Los Angeles' *Daily News* ran a series called "Ask the Candidates" on May 22, containing statements from seven different Republican candidates for the 36th Assembly District. Each discussed immigration, the economy, welfare, public safety, health care and education. The average space allotted was six column inches per candidate. The Democrat and Libertarian (Ron Tisbert) candidates got no play because they were unopposed in the primary.

Having two candidates (even if only one was active) could have gotten us twelve free column inches on the *Daily News'* editorial page to educate the public with two different variations on the Libertarian theme. When they ran the same feature on the U. S. Senate races, Richard Boddie and June Genis were similarly ignored. The same situation cropped up for me at numerous candidate forums where I was not invited to speak because I had no primary competition.

Why should anyone register Libertarian? By remaining a Democrat or Republican, a voter has the chance to choose, even if it between the lesser of two evils. When there is only one candidate, a vote seems irrelevant. Some competition might just stimulate more interest among otherwise apathetic Libertarian primary voters. Offering multiple candidates also gives the appearance of being a larger party and gives us the opportunity to run controlled experiments to determine the relative effectiveness of different approaches.

Competition would not waste our resources, since most candidates spend their own money on the campaigns. It would not divide the party, since each Libertarian has a slightly different vision of our ideal, and having the ideas presented in the marketplace of ideas during a campaign can only refine the strong and weed out the weak. If the LP can't handle this minor stress, then it is too fragile to be a useful engine of change. People of good will can disagree without being disagreeable.

What we will get by competition is more salesmen and more free ad space for our product. At this stage of our existence, we need both.

(Fred Heiser of Santa Clarita is the LP candidate in the 17th State

EXTRA! EXTRA! -- KERN LIBERTARIANS START NEWSPAPER

Two Bakersfield Libertarians have founded a monthly newspaper to promote libertarian ideas in their community. Kern County LP chair Mike Hodges and Assembly candidate Jeff Laing are now working on the second edition of "The Liberty Bell," a 10,000-circulation tabloid that is distributed at no charge at local businesses. The upcoming issue will feature articles on the court system, specifically focusing on the peoples' grand jury, fully informed juries, and privacy violations in jury selection. Voter registration cards will be included in the newspaper, urging people to register Libertarian. Business card size ads cost \$20. To advertise or subscribe, call (805) 633-1776.

Mike Hodges continues other well-publicized efforts to promote liberty in Kern County. He has sponsored town meetings to profile libertarian positions on major issues, and is planning a July 4 rally at the Kern County Courthouse to commemorate the Declaration of Independence. Hodges' relations with the local media is very positive. The following quote he wrote recently appeared in every newspaper in Kern county:

"Do you know you have the inalienable right to life, worship, property, travel, speech, defense, justice, equal rights, privacy, congregate, trade and market freely, keep the fruits of your own labor, and be disobedient whenever these rights are violated? Liberty is having all of these. Tyranny is taking away any of them from anybody."

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News Briefs

* Unfortunately, the U. S. Congress rejected a balanced budget amendment to the U. S. Constitution. There is irony involved in that the government hypocrites who supported it also supported years of runaway deficit spending. "We're fed up," said President Bush. "... it's time to stop treating our federal treasury like the corner cash machine." Bush says this, yet his most recent budget will result in a \$400 billion deficit! As U. S. Rep. Leon Panetta (D-Calif.) logically responded, "If they (Reagan and Bush) really believed a balanced budget should be enshrined in the Constitution, why has neither of them ever submitted a balanced budget to the Congress? There's nothing in the Constitution today that prevents the president from doing just that." Nothing indeed!

* The U. S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that states may ban write-in voting in elections. The case involved Hawaii, but write-ins are also prohibited in Nevada, Oklahoma and South Dakota. Justice Byron White wrote that even though voting is fundamental to a democracy, "It does not follow that the right to vote in any manner and the right to associate for political purposes through the ballot are absolute." Dissenter Justice Anthony Kennedy responded that banning write-ins prevents many voters from "participating in elections in a meaningful manner."

* Four Iranians charged with arson and "pillaging of state property" were executed in Marshad, Iran after being arrested for taking part in the largest anti-government demonstration since the 1979 revolution. Squatters protesting forced evictions by city authorities set fire to government buildings and burned copies of the Koran in a night of riots that reportedly left two dead. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei criticized the Iranian press for referring to the protestors as "people."

* State Senator Diane Watson (D-Los Angeles), a leading candidate for County Supervisor, employed a spiritualist to help her with staff problems and paid for the clairvoyant's services from campaign funds, according to Copley News Service. The spiritualist, Barbara Cromartie, said she was responsible for initiating a purge of Watson's staff in the late 1980s. "Sometimes people outgrow things, but they don't realize they've outgrown it," she told Copley. "... I spoke to her staff and her staff began to dissolve itself." Watson declined to say whether she believes in psychics or the occult. "This is what happens during silly season," she said, referring to political campaigning. "I am not a weirdo."

* "None of the Above" appeared on California ballots for the first time on June 2. The Green Party had asked that if their primary voters didn't vote in a particular race, those blank ballots would count against the candidate. A judge ruled that it would be easier to place "None of the Above" on the ballot instead. So, a reform that Libertarians have sought unsuccessfully for years for our own ballot was forced on another party! Most Green candidates won 85% of the vote or more over NOTA, but one lost. Roger Donaldson won 171 votes to NOTA's 207 in the 53rd Assembly District. Reports are that Donaldson wished for such a result, as he is supporting the Democratic candidate.

MEDIA AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT


by Gail Lightfoot

In 1991 the Libertarian Party of California presented the first "Libertarianism in the Media" Award to Tom Leykis, a talk show host on KFI Radio in Los Angeles. Mr. Leykis and his producer, Greg Cockrell, were chosen because of the forum they provided for libertarian ideas on the show.

These gentlemen not only invited Libertarian candidates to be guests, but actually expressed libertarian opinions and used the "L" word frequently on the air. For this unsolicited and welcome recognition, the LPC wanted to express our appreciation and encourage better understanding and further expression of libertarian principles.

We hope to select another media personality for this honor, which will be awarded at the 1993 LPC convention in February. We ask that party members submit nominations to the Libertarianism in the Media Award Committee, chaired by U. S. Senate candidate **Richard Boddie**.

Nominees should be non-libertarian, have a regular media forum and use that forum to promote libertarian ideas and candidates fairly to their audience. Send your nominations with an explanation to P. O. Box 3207, San Dimas, CA 91773 for the committee's review. An announcement will be made in this newsletter prior to the convention. We encourage everyone to participate in the selection and to attend the award banquet in February in Sunnyvale.



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LOLLAPALOOZA OF AN IDEA FOR LIBERTY

by *Randall Grindle*

The Lollapalooza music festival, July 16-19 at the Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View, offers Libertarians the opportunity to reach thousands of new young libertarians at virtually no cost.

A miniature Woodstock, the festival was conceived last year by the rock band Jane's Addiction to present audiences with a wide variety of non-mainstream music -- ranging from pop to punk, to rap to more exotic formats. The festival was also intended to provide a way for alternative political and cultural groups to reach a mass youth audience. The festival provides such groups with a tent, table and free passes.

Are these concert-goers interested in liberty? You bet. When the Advocates for Self Government's Operation Politically Homeless quiz card operation was set up at earlier one of these concerts, most quiz takers scored solidly in the Libertarian sector. We plan to set up such a table at the festival. As was done at the Grateful Dead concert, we will also hawk the tens of thousands of people streaming into the concert with the pitch "Stop Music Censorship. Here's how" -- and then give them Fully Informed Jury Act flyers. The censorship of groups such as Two Live Crew and Judas Priest has been stopped dead by jury nullification.

Libertarianism can be fun. Join us as a volunteer, or make a financial contribution that creates tomorrow's Libertarian voters. To promote this vital project, contact **Randall Grindle**, P. O. Box 684, Lower Lake, CA 95457, phone (707) 994-4817.

Do you own or manage a business?

We would love to hear from you...
The California LP News is aiming to become a self-funded publication. Please consider advertising with us. Rates are reasonable; something for every budget. And of course, the cause is noble.
Call Ted Brown at (818) 568-8404

DO YOUR PART FOR LIBERTY!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**PERSUADE A FRIEND TO
REGISTER AND JOIN
THE CALIFORNIA
LIBERTARIAN PARTY!!!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Libertarian Hike: Saturday, July 11, 10 a.m.** at Sunol Regional Park in Pleasanton (Alameda County). Exit I-680 at Calaveras Rd/Rt. 84 and go south on Calaveras Rd. to Geary Rd. Left on Geary for about two miles to the park entrance. Admission: \$5. Meet in front of the Green Barn. The hike is a loop of about 3.5 level miles. For more information, call **Dave Wolen** at (408) 378-3041.

* **Gun Show: July 31, August 1, August 2**, the Libertarian Party will have a booth and two tables at the Great Western Gun Show at the Fairplex in Pomona (Los Angeles County). The booth will promote Boddie for Senate and the tables will likely promote FIJA or other issues. This is a great opportunity to promote liberty to a very receptive crowd. To volunteer, contact **Gail Lightfoot** at (714) 623-1117.

* **Libertarian World Conference: August 10-15** in Poprad, Czechoslovakia. The International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) is sponsoring this historic event to bring together libertarian and classical liberal intellectuals, academics, students and government officials from across Eastern and Central Europe and the world to seek alternatives to statism and the socialist welfare state. Speakers will include South African libertarians Leon Louw and Frances Kendall, and a number of Eastern European free-marketeers. Total package (other than airfare) is \$490. For information, contact ISIL, 1800 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102, phone (415) 864-0952.



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